

Oil Production

2903. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated June 10, 1997 to the effect that there is possibility of serious drop in the level of self-reliance of the country in the field of petroleum during the next five years;

(b) whether the self sufficiency level is likely to drop upto 33 percent by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan of the country;

(c) the expenditure incurred on raising the level of oil production during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the extent to which the target fixed by the Government has been achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An expenditure of approximately Rs. 32066 crores was incurred on exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the country during the Eighth Plan.

(d) The table given below indicates the targets and production of crude oil in the country during the Eighth Plan.

(Figs. in MMT)

Year	Target	Production
1992-93	28.46	26.95
1993-94	27.17	27.026
1994-95	32.29	32.239
1995-96	36.296	35.147
1996-97	36.312	32.881*

*Provisional

[English]

Expenditure of Litigation, I.T.D.C.

2904. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on litigation of ITDC during the last three years;

(b) whether the expenditure have come down as

compared to the previous years;

(c) whether ITDC follows the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 regarding admissible Fees to Advocates in the matter of litigation;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revamp the legal cell of ITDC; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to improve the image of Legal Department of ITDC ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The details of expenditure incurred on litigation are given below :

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakh)
1994-95	10.53
1995-96	16.30
1996-97	17.25 (Prov.)

The expenditure has marginally increased during 1996-97 over previous year.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 are applicable to ITDC. However, these rules do not specifically provide for payment of fee to Advocates except in the case of Liquidation of the Company.

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no proposal to revamp the Legal Cell. However, the improvement of image is a continuous process.

By Pass on National Highway No. 31

2905. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1361 on July 22, 1996 and state :

(a) the percentage of work completed till March 31, 1997 in respect of construction of Falakata to Pundibari Bypass road on National Highway No. 31 and bridge on river Torsha;

(b) whether the work is likely to be completed within the target date i.e. by March, 1998; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The progress of Falakata-Pundibari Bypass on National Highway No. 31 and bridge over river Torsa as on 31st March, 1997 is as under :